



A new and conveniently located headquarters for the Aruba Hospitality & Security Foundation

On Friday evening, the members of the board and staff of the Aruba Hospitality and Security Foundation (AH&SF) gathered at their new offices located between the Hyatt Regency and Occidental Resorts in Palm Beach for an official opening ceremony.

President of the Board and General Manager of the Playa Linda Resort, Jan van Ness welcomed the gathering, which included the Minister of Justice, Rudy Croes, and the Chief Commissioner of Police, Peter de Witte. Aside from the celebration of the opening of their new offices, he also declared it a “belated Christmas celebration” for the staff, who were given their holiday gift of free gas allotments courtesy of Valero Refinery Aruba, a staunch supporter of the AH & SF. David Smith, Coordinator of Community Relations for Valero, is also one of the AH & SF board members.

Jan van Ness revealed during his address that the Playa Linda, along with a number of other resorts are reporting “zero negative incidents” since the refinement and expansion of the AH&SF in the last three years. Board members expressed that the new central location will make the teams more visible, an important concern and deterrent to petty crime, and more easily accessible in case of complaints.

Since the inception of the AH&SF program as a preventative measure, Aruba has received a number of accolades for this community initiative, including the prestigious Motorola Police Awards in 2003. Rob Smith, General Manager of the Westin Resort Aruba, and former President of the AH&SF board revealed that many of those that were trained for the team have gone on to join the police force. At this time, board members and Aruba’s Police Corps administrators are working out a plan to use the Visibility Teams as a form of practical training for their officer candidates.

The patrols of the “Visibility Teams” of the AH&SF consist of privately hired security staff under the supervision of police staff, which head the four patrol teams. Teams are located at Palm Beach, Eagle Beach, Oranjestad, and San Nicolas. The island’s four Deputy Police Commissioners supervise this joint effort on a rotating basis, and Deputy Commissioner Krozendijk is now in charge. He was on hand to receive the keys to the new offices from Minister of Justice Croes, who had the duty of formally accepting them from Ricky Malmberg of De Palm Tours, and Miguel Eugene, General Manager of the Occidental.

The new AH & SF offices are adjacent to the Occidental Resort and behind the De Palm Tours facility attached to the resort. The entrance is found on the access road to the beach, and ready to receive and inform visitors at this new, convenient location is Darlene Birsby, Liaison/Administrative, and Organizing Consultant.